(iv) A Scheme for Distribution of Subsidized Imported Edible Oils through the State Governments/UTs has been introduced.

Empowering consumers against sub-standard goods

3445. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of empowering consumers against sub-standard goods, by enactment of laws which would include critical product liability clause, making erring manufacturers and suppliers liable to pay punitive damages;

(b) if so, whether the rules under the Food Safety Act also bring in standards for packaged food items, etc.; and

(c) whether. Food Regulatory Authority would be empowered adequately to immediately take care of aggrieved consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) As informed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 empowers the consumers to lift the samples for getting it analysed as well as to launch the prosecution against offenders in the court of law if the sample is found adulterated. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India being established under the said Act is empowered to lay down standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import as well **as** labelling provisions. The Act also provides for payment of compensation to the consumers in case of injury or death of the consumer caused due to consumption of food.

Reduction in allocation of **foodgrains to Kerala**

2346. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the quantity of foodgrains allcoated to Kerala for distribution through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has objected to such a move; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) **The** Central Government makes allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution

System (TPDS) forBPL, AAY, and APL families of all the States/UTs, including Kerala, on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 01.03.2000, or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by each State/UT, whichever is less.

While the allocations of foodgrains for AAY and BPL families within the limits fixed by the Planning Commission are made @35 kg per family per month, allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of their stocks in the Central Pool.

In view of low stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, their allocation under TPDS for the APL category was rationalized, for all the States/UTs, including Kerala, on the basis of offtake during previous 3 years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 from June, 2006 and April, 2007, respectively. For 2008-09, APL allocation of rice has been based on its average offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08. APL allocation of wheat has been retained at normal allocation for this category during 2007-08 (excluding adhoc additional allocations"). This norm has been followed uniformly for all the States, including Kerala. Allocations made to Kerala during last three eyars and for 2008-09 are as follows:

(In lakh tons)

Year	Annual BPL + AAY allocations of rice & wheat	Annual APL allocations of rice & wheat	Total
2005-06	6.53	18.09	24.62
2006-07	6.53	16.04	22.57
2007-08	6.53	5.32	11.85
2008-09	6.53	3.46	9.99 .

(c) and (d) The State Government of Kerala has requested for increase/restoration of allocation of wheat and rice made for APL category to earlier levels. However, in view of uniform applicability of the policy of rationalization of allocations to all the States and lower availability of foodgrains in Central Pool due to less procurement, this request of Kerala Government could not be acceded to.

Setting up of Food Quality Authority

3447. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Food Quality Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): fa) to (c) Section 4 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 empowers the Central Government so establish a body known as Food Safety and